

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 031434

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINS, MASS, RP

SUBJECT:MARCOS STATEMENT RE ARMS REQUEST

1. UPI REPORTS MARCOS SPEECH TO POLITICAL MEETING IN LUCENA CITY ON FEBRUARY 11 IN WHICH HE REPORTEDLY STATED HE HAD REPEATEDLY SOUGHT U.S. AID TO QUELL THE MUSLIM REVOLT BUT AMERICANS HAVE GIVEN ONLY TOKEN ARMS ASSISTANCE.
2. STATEMENT MAY BOLSTER OUR POSITION OF NON-INVOLVEMENT IN MUSLIM SITUATION IN PHILIPPINES BUT BY SAME TOKEN MAY MAKE IT SOMEWHAT MORE DIFFICULT TO HANDLE MELCHOR REQUEST.
3. CAN EMBASSY SHED ANY LIGHT ON WHAT MARCOS SPECIFICALLY HAD IN MIND OR WHAT HIS MOTIVES WERE IN MAKING STATEMENT?
4. REQUEST REPLY BY OPENING OF BUSINESS FEBRUARY 12 WASHINGTON TIME AS WE EXPECT PRESS INQUIRIES AT NOON BRIEFING.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE031434
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BAFLECK:PAW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750050-0212
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750250/aaaabsgt.tel
Line Count: 60
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARCOS STATEMENT RE ARMS REQUEST
TAGS: PINS, MASS, RP, US, (MARCOS, FERDINAND)
To: MANILA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006